



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement Regarding the North Korean Nuclear Test Announcement**

As delivered by Chargé d’Affaires Kyle Scott  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
October 19, 2006

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Since our last PC session North Korea announced on October 9<sup>th</sup> that it had tested a nuclear weapon. North Korea’s action is a threat to peace, stability, and security throughout the region – and must therefore also be a matter of concern to the OSCE participating States.

On October 14<sup>th</sup>, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1718, which sends a strong and clear message to North Korea that it faces serious repercussions for its continued pursuit of weapons of mass destruction. The sanctions imposed on North Korea by this resolution demonstrate the unity and determination of the international community to ensure that the Korean Peninsula is free of nuclear weapons.

The unanimous adoption of Resolution 1718 – a legally binding resolution on all UN Member States under Chapter VII of the UN Charter – shows that the world is united in condemning the actions taken by the North Korean regime. By taking clear, firm, and punitive action, we have sent a very strong signal to North Korea that continuing on this path of intransigence can only lead to further isolation.

The United States is committed to peace and security in Northeast Asia and to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, but the implications of North Korea’s test for international efforts to combat proliferation, international terrorism, and the spread of weapons of mass destruction could not be more profound. The transfer of nuclear weapons or nuclear material by North Korea to states or non-state entities would be considered a grave threat, and we should hold North Korea fully accountable for the consequences of such action.

It is critical that the international community work together to address North Korea’s growing threat to its neighbors and the world by fully implementing the provisions of UNSCR 1718. To this end, the OSCE can play a role by continuing its focus on border security and management, on combating terrorism, and other efforts to reduce the threat of proliferation. The upcoming workshop on UNSCR 1540 which will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> is an important step. It is but one example of OSCE’s work to assist in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, and we encourage all participating States to attend with relevant experts from their capitals.

The United States welcomes very much the strong statement made by our Chairman in Office on October 9<sup>th</sup>. We call on all OSCE participating States and Partners for Cooperation to implement expeditiously and completely all requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 1718, to counter North Korea’s full array of illicit and proliferation activities.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.